BRICK MAKING MACHINE.

A PATENT has lately been enrolled by William Hodgson, of 42, King-street, Kingston-upon-Hull, for "A machine for making and compressing bricks, small paviors, floor bricks, flat tiles, ornamental bricks, &c., at one operation." The invention relates to certain arrangements of machinery or apparatus for making or moulding and compressing, &c. bricks and tiles; that part of the invention which relates to the making or moulding of bricks, consists in having a mould constructed in such manner that all its sides shall fall down so that the brick can be removed. The sides and ends of this mould are covered with moleskin, which is turned over the upper edge and fastened thereto by means of brass beading or plates and screws; this mould when in use is placed within an outer mould, which during the making of the brick keeps the sides of the inner mould in a vertical position. The outer mould here spoken of is fixed upon a table, on the underside of which there are two or more treadles to suit the convenience of the workmen when on different sides of the table; these treadles communicate with a vertical spindle, the upper end of which passes through the table and is attached to the inner mould having moveable sides; the object of this arrangement being that when a brick has been formed in the inner mould, in the usual way of making bricks, such mould is raised from the outer one by placing the foot upon some of the treadles; the sides of the mould at the same time falling down admits of the brick being removed by means of a pallet-board in the ordinary manner. Upon the same table, and near the machine just described, is fixed the compressing apparatus, which forms the second part of the invention, and consists of a mould having its two sides attached to the bottom part by means of hinges, the ends of the mould being moveable and capable of approaching each other; this mould is made to drop within another similar to that just described, and over the mould is a pressing-box having inclined ends, which come in contact with the moveable ends. This pressing-box can be raised or lowered upon an arrangement of levers, the parts being so arranged that when the pressing-box is lowered for the purpose of compressing a brick, the underside of such box comes first in contact with the upper face of the brick, the inclined ends of the pressing-box coming at or near the same time into contact with the moveable ends of the mould cause the same to approach each other, and thereby compress the brick which is contained in the mould. The inventor claims the arrangement of making bricks by means of a mould having falling sides and ends, and also the arrangement for making and compressing bricks, paviors, and tiles by a mould with falling sides and moveable ends, as above described.

Correspondence.

BUILDING-ACT.

SITUATION OF NEW PARTY-WALL WHERE PREMISES ARE NOW DIVIDED OVER THE CENTRE OF A WAY TO PUBLIC MEWS.

To the Editor of "The Builder."

SIR,—Perhaps some of your numerous correspondents will inform me how I shall be situated when the New Building-Act, of which you have given so able an exposition in No. 92 of THE BUILDER, comes into operation? There is a house adjoining an opening leading from a street into a public mews, over the centre of which opening is a party-partition supported on breast-summers; now, it is intended to pull down the front of the house, and I wish to know *where* and *how* the new party-wall will be situated provided the works are not commenced before the 1st of January next, and what will be the thickness required of the walls on either side of the opening, and also of the arch. The wall that supports the breast-summer on the side of my neighbour was at one time the party-wall, and now runs up above the roof, but it has been cut through, and now half the space over the opening belongs to each house.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

November 12th, 1844. T. O. M.

[This case must be left to the official-referees, who, as parts of the adjoining buildings project over the way to the public mews, have power, at discretion, to divide the freeholds, assign the site of a party-wall, and determine the sum to be paid by one party to the other for loss.—ED.]

COTTAGE CONSTRUCTION AND DECORATION.

SIR,—Intending to erect a cottage similar to the design in No. 44 of THE BUILDER, and there being none other near, I thought of using chamfered bricks for the window-jambs (they are near at hand), with a moulding of cement to run round the sash-frame, the mullion to be of wood. Would you advise me to have a label moulding over the windows? if any, would you have cement or bricks moulded, or bricks with stone knees? As stone coping is expensive, would you prefer barge-boards to a coping of bricks? Also, do you think that bricks coated with cement would answer for window-sills? and as you were recommending iron-hooping, instead of bond timber, would you advise the bond for the floor to lie on bricks corbelled to receive it, or the joists to lie on the hooping? If you would have the kindness to answer these questions, I shall be greatly obliged to you, and you will confer a great favour on a country carpenter.

Gedney. W. HALL.

[We do not advise a cement moulding in the situation stated, as it would be out of correct style. Champered bricks will serve very well for the window-jambs; label-mouldings of brick, if well-made, will answer the purpose: we should not recommend the use of stone in labels, without they be wholly made of it. The sills should be either of brick or of stone. Wooden barge-boards are improper to buildings of brick or stone, and *suitable* only for buildings of wood, or of timber, lath and plaster. "Bond" is a term improperly applied in this case; the article mentioned is "*a wall-plate*," and must be of a stiff material; therefore, iron hooping, which is only for receiving and restraining tension, is not proper. Corbelled work is excellent, particularly for ground-floors, as in case plates and joists rot, the walls still remain sound.—ED.]

INQUIRY RELATIVE TO A KNOWLEDGE OF MARQUETRY.

SIR,—Can you or any of your valuable correspondents inform me how I may gain a knowledge of marquetry-work? By giving this a place in this month's magazine, you will oblige.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

A SUBSCRIBER FROM THE COMMENCEMENT.

Ellesmere, Nov. 24, 1844.

[We insert our correspondent's request, and shall be glad to avail ourselves of any original observations upon the subject.—ED.]

APPLICATION OF THAMES' MUD TO BRICK-MAKING AND OTHER USES.

SIR,—At the present day, when invention and discovery appear to occupy the minds of almost every individual, I think it strange that no one has thought of applying to some useful purpose the vast accumulation of mud for many miles on the banks of the Thames. It appears to me that if it were properly analysed, it would be found an excellent material for making bricks.

The great increase of building, and the consequent demand for bricks in the metropolis, as well as in all parts of the kingdom, would be a means of removing that great nuisance from the river, and, at the same time, render it worth the while of any speculative company engaging in so seemingly desirable an object.

Trusting this letter will induce an inquiry into the subject, and that I shall see your own opinion, with that of some experienced and practical men, in THE BUILDER,—I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Nov. 26, 1844. A SUBSCRIBER.

LATHES FOR SPIRAL TURNING.

SIR,—I should feel obliged if some of your correspondents would inform me (through the medium of your valuable publication) what kind of lathe is generally used for spiral turning, and what the expense of such an article would be, and at the same time inform me if there is any work extant on the subject.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.

A WELL-WISHER.

Nov. 23rd, 1844.

[We insert this letter in order that any correspondents who may have lathes with sliding-rests, or any other apparatus by which screw-cutting may be effected, may afford our correspondent information.—Ed.]

SIEBE'S ROTATORY PUMP.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if you or any of the numerous readers of THE BUILDER can, through the medium of that paper, give me any information respecting Siebe's Rotatory Pump, its merits, cost, and where to be purchased.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Diss, November 22, 1844.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION.

THE CHORISTERS' SCHOOL, MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

SIR,—Having seen, from the careful perusal of your paper, the great desire you have always evinced towards exposing the present faulty mode of competing for new buildings, now so generally adopted, and frequently so unfairly terminated, I would call your attention to the subject of the late public competition for the Choristers' School for Magdalen College, Oxford, which has, I hear, been decided in favour of a design sent in by Mr. Derrick, architect of that city.

In the printed instructions issued to architects who might be willing to compete, it was distinctly specified that the designs must be sent in by the 1st of October, ample time being given (nearly two months) for completing the drawings in question.

In commencing a competition, two questions of the greatest importance naturally suggest themselves to the architect—first, the sum of money to be expended; secondly, the time allowed for preparing the plans; these are then considered as fixed points to be scrupulously observed, and he proceeds accordingly. However, on the present occasion all such general rules appear to have been treated with contempt by both parties; the facts of the case being simply these:—Mr. Derrick, who sends in his designs at least two weeks after the time specified, is appointed to carry out his designs, he being a resident at Oxford, and having access (as any one had who was taken in by a member of the college) to the room where all the drawings already sent in were exhibited. The sum of 20*l.* to each has, I hear, been voted to Messrs. Allom, Pugin, and another, the estimate of the former being 1,800*l.* more than the sum mentioned to be expended (5,000*l.*),* and the second only submitting a pen-and-ink perspective view of what he considered the building ought to be, instead of sending plans, sections, and elevations, as expected from the other competitors. I must say, I am much surprised at such a termination to a competition, which I hoped, knowing the high character of the parties who had to make the selection, would have proved itself a pattern of justice and impartiality; and can only attribute it to a want of knowledge of business on their part; and must, in conclusion, call upon the profession generally to come forward, and appeal to the Institute of British Architects to take the necessary steps to put an end to a system marked with such gross injustice. The Institute is an incorporated body, possessing a royal charter, and it is scarcely necessary to add that public bodies can easily accomplish that which a private individual would not venture to attempt.

Unless some remedy is found for this erying evil, these repeated acts of inconsistent conduct must necessarily tend to lower the profession in the eyes of the public, and will end by destroying its respectability altogether when they see such treatment as it constantly suffers borne with impunity, and without any measures being taken to remedy the evil, and at the same time protect professional men from wasting their money and valuable time in such an unprofitable manner.

By inserting the above in your very useful paper, you will put others on their guard in future, and at the same time oblige your obedient servant, AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

London, Nov. 25, 1844.

* This amount was not specified in the printed instructions, but that can be no excuse, for of course on so essential a point application would be made to the Bursar of the College, who named 5,000*l.* immediately as the sum to be spent on the proposed new building.

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